GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:409
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2001
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON VACCINES
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vaccines for a number of serious and incurable diseases have already been developed in the country and the work is speedly going on in regard to the development of some more vaccines;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether research is being done to develop the vaccines for the treatment of AIDS/HIV; and

(d) if so, the present position of the research work done in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b) : Vaccines for six major childhood diseases, i.e., Tuberculosis, Diptheria, Pertusis, Tetanus, Polio and Measles used under Expanded Programme of Immunization(EPI) are being manufactured in India through conventional methods. A therapeutic immunomodulator (vaccine) for Leprosy, the first of its kind developed by the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi is in the market. There are no side effects. This reduces the treatment duration for leprosy patients. Recombinant Hepatitis-B vaccines have also been developed and manufactured in India. Rapid progress has been made in the research on New Generation Vaccines for six major diseases viz. Rabies, Malaria, Cholera, Japanese Encephalitis, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS under the National Jai Vigyan Science and Technology Mission supported by the Department of Biotechnology. Under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme, two candidate vaccines for rotaviral diarrhoea are ready for phase-I trial. Work on the development of edible vaccines for Cholera and Rabies has significantly progressed.

(c) & (d) : Many research programmes to develop vaccine specific to HIV-I subtype `C`, the most prevalent genotype in India are under implementation. Initial animal experiments indicate promising response. Further studies are in progress on molecular typing of HIV-I isolates, immune responses in human subjects, vaccine delivery systems and establishment of viral repository. Some collaborative projects with international agencies and research institutions have also been taken up to speed up the work.